

May 19, 1975

bracket is defeated, Mr. President, I would ask to withdraw the first one with my understanding that both Senator Carsten and Senator Burbach are supporting the second one which puts the maximum at 12 this year ... that the Board would set it up to that.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett, do you wish to speak on bracketing?

SENATOR BARNETT: Yes I do for the simple reason that I find myself in a very unusual position trying to support Senator Lewis. I don't understand what Senator Dickinson or Senator Carsten or Burbach are talking about when they say they want to kill it. They'll kill it to bracket it. I don't see how in the world you can set the tax rates when you don't even know what money you're spending. This is the part ... if it's a political game I wish somebody would tell me what it is. When it comes to setting the tax rates I think it's ridiculous that we play politics in here with this thing. If you don't have the guts to set it I guess that's OK. I'm slowly turning that way to set them. I'm not afraid to set them. If we want to spend the money then let's go ahead and set them. I can't see why you are opposed to bracketing this bill till you find out how much money we're going to need. If those bills on Final Reading up there are killed or vetoed and we don't override, what's to say we can't get along with 11? I don't understand why you want to push this through and set a rate that may not even be needed. I certainly hope you bracket the bill. I hope it don't kill it. I don't understand where it's going to kill it at all. It looks to me like it makes sense to know what you're going to spend.

PRESIDENT: Senator Stull.

SENATOR STULL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I oppose the bracketing of this bill. We don't know how many bills are carrying appropriations up there are going to be passed. We don't know how many of the bills that's been sent over to the Governor that he's going to veto or whether this Legislature is going to sustain the vetos or override them. We're not going to know that until when we adjourn. This Legislature can't set tax rates until we would know. The only way we could actually set them with any degree of intelligence would be to have a time and come back after all the bills are passed and totaled up to see how much money we're going to need. I think Senator Lewis and also Senator Barnett is giving some of the best reasons in the world why this Legislature shouldn't set the tax rate. They admit we don't know what we're going to spend. I'm sure we don't know, none of us. Time to set the tax rates, Senator Kelly illuded to it. We're planting corn and we don't know how much this corn is going to make, the price of it. The thing that's got us into all this trouble is the fact that the cattle prices were depressed last year. We had a crop failure. The total farm economy didn't pay the taxes then that we paid in the past. Whenever the farmers don't have the money to spend it affects the total economy of Nebraska. We shouldn't bracket this bill. We should go ahead and adopt the Warner amendment and get the thing moving towards Final Reading so that we can read it and pass it before we get out of here.